of 17 districts. The floods have also claimed 19 human lives and damaged 53.0 houses.

(b) Government of India have released two instalments of the Central share of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1996-97 amounting to Rs. 18.755 crores. Government of India have laid down the list of items, the expenditure on which alone will be chargeable to the CRF. The accountant Generals are required to see that only expenditure on the items approved by the Government of India is booked to the CRF.

(c) It has been decided to depute a Central Team to the State to assess the situation caused by floods and give its recommendations.

Aerial Survey of the Forest Cover in Andhra Pradesh

2039. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any aerial survey has been done of the forest cover in Andhra Pradesh in 1995-96;

(b) what were the conclusions from this aerial or satellite survey;

(c) whether the forest cover has not recovered in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the steps proposed to increase vigilance on forest depletion in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Special Rice Production Schemes In Madhya Pradesh

2040. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts of Madhya Pradesh included under the special rice production schemes;

(b) whether any specific assistance has been provided to the frarmers of the state under this scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the names of the development blocks in Bilaspur and Raipur districts being benefited therefrom; and

(e) the assistance provided so far?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) For rice development all the rice growing districts of Madhya Pradesh are covered under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes "Integrated Cereals Development programmes in Rice Based and Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas" (ICDP-Rice & ICDP Coarse Cereals)

(b) and (c) Under the schemes, assistance provided to farmers includes incentive on certified seeds and identified improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstration and farmer's trainings are also being organised in the identified low productivity blocks.

(d) Through ICDP-Rice all the development blocks in Bilaspur and Raipur districts and being benefitted.

(e) The assistance provided includes incentives on certified seed and identified bullock drawn and manually operated improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstrations and farmers trainings are also being organised in the identified blocks.

UGC Research projects

2041. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether paucity of funds is a major hurdle for research scholars all over the country;